

South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 2nd, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ACE Board Room – 5000 S. Broadband Lane, Suite 224

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Present: David Struck, Chairman; David Iverson, Vice Chairman (via Zoom); Derrick Scott, Treasurer; Jeff Thompson, Acting Secretary; Bruce Haines, April Bowar, Carson Stange (via Zoom), and Terry Jaspers

Staff Present: Jerry Schmitz, Executive Director; Becky Cypher, Business Manager; Kevin Scott, Assistant Executive Director; Maggie Vander Laan, Communications Director; Danielle Dykstra, Administrative Assistant; Johnna Ringkob, Market Development & Research Director; and Valerie Willson, Program Manager

Guests Present: Scott Ritzman, Contractor; Mark Berg, Contractor; Tim Ostrem; USB; and Mike McCranie, USB; and Tanner Hento, SDSA

Board Members Absent: Chad Schooley, Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Struck led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order – David Struck

Chairman Struck called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Open Meeting Laws

Jerry stated that, per a state law passed during last year's legislative session, we need to discuss open meeting laws. The document *"Conducting the Public's Business in Public – A guide to South Dakota's Open Meeting Laws"* is available in the e-folder and available to all board members.

Approval of Agenda – David Struck

Motion:

Terry Jaspers moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures – David Struck

Chairman Struck asked board members to declare any new conflicts. None received.

Secretary's Report – Jeff Thompson, Acting Secretary

Approve the minutes from the November 25, 2025 Board Meeting

Approve the minutes from the January 27, 2026 Board Meeting

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2025 and January 27, 2026 board meetings.

Seconded by April Bowar.

Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Derrick Scott**Review Financials**

Treasurer Derrick Scott displayed the financials prepared by Scott Ritzman as of February 28, 2026 for the board to review.

Strategic Planning Budget Line Item

Scott explained that the only dollar amount budgeted previously for strategic planning was the facilitator fee.

Motion:

Derrick Scott moved to budget \$40,000 for strategic planning expenses in FY26.

Seconded by April Bowar.

Motion passed unanimously.

Bank Signers**Motion:**

April Bowar moved to add Kevin Scott to the U.S. Bank and Dacotah Bank accounts, effective immediately, and remove Jerry Schmitz effective July 9, 2026.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Terry Jaspers moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Seconded by Jeff Thompson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board Trade Mission Proposals – Scott Ritzman, Ritz Ag Consulting

Scott Ritzman presented his proposal for a board trade mission. He shared potential locations and explained the difference between visiting emerging and mature markets. He said they would also incorporate visits from USMEF, USAPEEC, USSEC, etc. The board discussed and will determine the location at the June board meeting.

SDSU FY25 Project Extension – “Detection of Fusarium virguliforme-borne Sudden Death Syndrome Disease in Soybean Using Portable Hyperspectral Imaging System and AI-Driven Computer Vision” – Dr. Yadav**Motion:**

Bruce Haines moved to reappropriate \$10,182.29 in Dr. Yadav's FY25 project titled “Detection of Fusarium virguliforme-borne Sudden Death Syndrome Disease in Soybean Using Portable Hyperspectral Imaging System and AI-Driven Computer Vision”.

Seconded by Terry Jaspers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approved Award Budget

	Current Budget	Proposed Change	Proposed Budget
Salary	\$ 23,859.00	\$ 5,228.00	\$ 29,087.00
Benefits	\$ 239.00	\$ (79.60)	\$ 159.40
Travel	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,059.60	\$ 9,059.60
Contractual	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 894.69	\$ 2,294.69
Supplies	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (2,125.69)	\$ 7,874.31
Tuition Remission	\$ 7,977.00	\$ (7,977.00)	\$ -
Total	\$ 48,475.00	\$ -	\$ 48,475.00

SDSU FY25 Project Budget Revision – “Assessment for Mid-Late Season Foliar Diseases of Soybean” – Dr. Solanki

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to reappropriate \$3,400 in Dr. Solanki’s FY25 project titled “Assessment for Mid-Late Season Foliar Diseases of Soybean”.

Seconded by Derrick Scott.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approved Award Budget

	Current Budget	Proposed Change	Proposed Budget
Salary	\$ 23,980.00	\$ (3,400.00)	\$ 20,580.00
Benefits	\$ 240.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 540.00
Travel	\$ 2,900.00		\$ 2,900.00
Contractual	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Supplies	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 11,260.00
Non-Capital Equipment			\$ -
Rental Fees			\$ -
Other Grants and Subsidie	\$ -		\$ -
Subaward	\$ -		\$ -
Miscellaneous			\$ -
Tuition Remission	\$ 8,062.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 8,402.00
Capital Equipment	\$ -		\$ -
F&A Costs	\$ -		\$ -
Total	\$ 47,682.00	\$ -	\$ 47,682.00

SDSU 5-Year Agreement

Becky and Jerry explained the 5-year agreement with SDSU. The current agreement expires June 30th, 2026.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to direct staff to contact SDSU for the new research agreement to replace the current agreement, expiring June 30, 2026.

Seconded by Terry Jaspers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Council Election Judges

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to approve Erik Gerlach, Anthony Bly, and Glenn Muller as the three election judges for the upcoming Council board elections, should they be needed, or any other folks deemed necessary by staff.

Seconded by Jeff Thompson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report – Jerry Schmitz

Other

Becky gave an update on the Council election – Districts 1, 2, and 8 are up for reelection. Jerry gave an overview of the Japan and Korea trade mission that he and Kevin Scott attended with South Dakota Trade.

Spring Survey Results

Jerry shared the results of the production survey that was sent out to both boards.

“Monitoring the Distribution of Cover Crops and Regenerative Farming Practices Using GeoAI and Environmental Drivers Across Eastern South Dakota” – Ranjeet John, USD (via Zoom)

Ranjeet John discussed his proposal. He’s asking for \$43,638 from the Council.

“Soybean-Specific Spectral Stress Detection for South Dakota Using Hybrid Satellite and Field-Level AI Modeling” – Abid Mehmood, DSU

Abid Mehmood thanked the board for the opportunity to present to the board. He described his proposal and is asking for \$138,265.

NSM Proposal – Dr. Nishchal Sharma’s proposal “Pilot Study on Storage-Induced Changes in the Nutritional Value of Soybean Meal”

Chairman Struck explained that this proposal was brought to the NSM board, thought this was an interesting proposal. He stated it’s not in NSM’s mission and thought the states may want to consider it. The board will discuss it further at the June board meeting.

“Development of Soybean-Derived Nitrogen Ingredients for Fermentation Applications” – Tanvi Govil, SDSMT (via Zoom)

Tanvi Govil presented her proposal over Zoom. She is asking for \$39,680 for her proposal.

“E-Soil: Early Detection of Soybean Outbreaks Using CPS and Integrated Learning” – Reza Mehrabian, SDSMT (in person)

Reza Mehrabian introduced himself and is requesting \$49,226 for his project.

USB Reports

Mike McCranie

Dave Poppens

SD State Fair Hog Wild Sponsorship

Jerry said this is the sponsorship request he received from Secretary Roberts for the hog barn at the SD State Fair.

Motion:

Derrick Scott moved to sponsor the SD State Fair Hog Wild sponsorship for pens in the amount of \$30,000 for FY27.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

FY27 Funding Requests – Research Investment Channel

FY27 Funding Requests – Biofuels Investment Channel

FY27 Funding Requests – International Marketing Investment Channel

FY27 Funding Requests – Domestic Marketing Investment Channel

FY27 Funding Requests – Public Information | Education Investment Channel

FY27 Funding Requests – Operations Investment Channel

Motion:

April Bowar moved to approve the draft FY27 budget in the amount of \$7,616,365.

Seconded by Jeff Thompson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to give final approval for the following FY27 projects and amounts immediately: SDSU Research - \$634,280; Pioneer BioTech - \$50,000; Yield Contest - \$143,500; SDSA Golf Sponsorship - \$2,500; Heartland Consumer Reports - \$84,680; Heartland Consumer Quick Tips Video Series - \$10,000; Dakota Farm Talk - \$6,900; SD Soybean Network Radio and Print Copy - \$25,220; The Soybean Pod Podcast - \$9,600; Back 40 Beef Sponsorship - \$6,500; 2026 Midwest Ag Export Sponsorship - \$7,500; SDSU – Dakota BioWorx - Commodity Based Bioproduct Innovation - \$500,000, and SDSU Farmer Training Workshop for the use of Drones/UAV - \$14,377.50.

Seconded by Derrick Scott.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Chairman Struck asked for public input at 4:05 p.m. None received.

Other Items

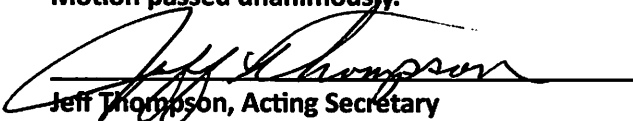
Adjourn

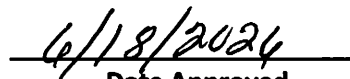
Motion:

Terry Jaspers moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Seconded by Derrick Scott.

Motion passed unanimously.


Jeff Thompson, Acting Secretary
SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council


Date Approved